



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

Compliance and Enforcement Division

INCIDENT REPORT

Chevron Richmond Refinery, Site # A0010
841 Chevron Way, Richmond, CA
August 14, 2020

On August 14, 2020, at approximately 11:22 am, the Chevron Richmond Refinery (Chevron) experienced a process unit upset, which led to approximately 75 minutes of flaring activity at the Fluid Catalytic Cracker Unit (FCC) flare. Flares are utilized as safety devices to depressurize process units. The flaring resulted in a visible flame and black smoke which could be seen by the surrounding community.

At approximately 2:00 pm, Chevron staff reported that they had stabilized refinery operations. At this time, the cause of the process unit upset is under investigation. There is no known cause and Chevron and the Air District have initiated an investigation.

The Air District responded to complaints from the neighboring community during this incident. Air District inspection staff was on scene from 11:26 am until 1:45 pm to monitor the situation and patrol for any offsite impacts.

The smoke from the flare appeared to be lofting high into the atmosphere and there were no elevated readings recorded on Chevron's ground level monitors for hydrogen sulfide or sulfur dioxide. The winds during the time of the flaring were out of the northeast at 10 - 11 mph.

Air District staff will continue to monitor the situation and investigate this incident to determine if any violations of Air District regulations occurred.